

# Reading Guitar Music Work Book

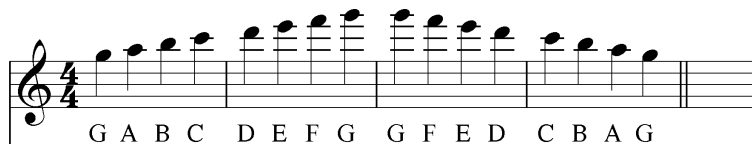
*G E d i t i o n*

Above the Stave

EBG Strings Version

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

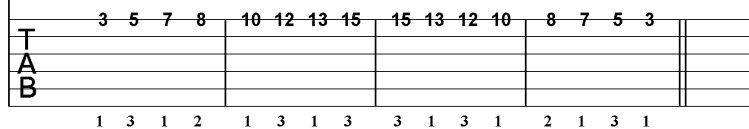
**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



**STEP 6:** Name The Modal Scale \_\_\_\_\_

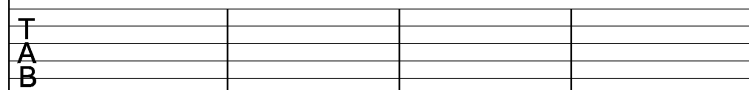
**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory



**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*

By Taura Eruera

<http://www.guitarteacher.net.nz>

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Reading Guitar Music Work Book  
G Edition Above the Stave  
Three String EBG Version  
by Taura Eruera © 2010

You may use this report for your own learning or teaching as long as long as you keep this whole report intact and the following links intact:

More [reading guitar music](http://www.guitarteacher.net.nz/reading-guitar-music.html) information is available at  
<http://www.guitarteacher.net.nz/reading-guitar-music.html>

This book will also complement [step by step guitar lessons](#), any [easy to follow guitar course](#), [intermediate guitar lessons](#), [advanced guitar lessons](#) and [cheap guitar lessons](#) too.

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## Introduction

When you have completed this course of lessons you will have experienced twelve different ways to read, write and play the notes *above the stave* and tablature.

The focus of this book is reading and writing the notes **above the stave** and how to read and write them above the stave and on the tab. (Separate books will address the notes **in** the stave and **below** the stave)

This is an extremely narrow focus. A deliberately narrow focus. So that your mind can focus on a relatively narrow chunk, a specific skill, and master that skill.

You will master these skills through an 8 step process. These steps are outlined in the model lesson.

### **Follow these steps for each lesson.**

*You will need a pencil and eraser (not a pen).* You are going to be doing the following tasks:

- with your pencil, you will label notes on the stave
- with your pencil you will, write notes onto guitar tab
- with your pencil you will write fingerings for each note on the guitar tab
- with your pencil you will write out the name of the scale and the key
- with your pencil you will write the correct notes in the second stave by memory
- with your pencil, you will correctly label the notes you have just written on the stave
- with your pencil you will, write notes onto guitar tab for the notes you just wrote above the stave
- with your pencil you will write fingerings for each note you have just written on the guitar tab
- with your mind you will memorise and visualise the last three steps you have done
- on your guitar, you will play each note from memory, out of tempo, naming each note and describing its tab position, as you play
- you will then take a break before starting the next lesson.

Notice that for seven of these steps above, you are using your pencil. You are writing. You are writing notes on the stave, writing letter names above each note, writing notes on guitar tab and writing fingering for each notes. For those seven steps you are *writing, writing, writing*. Just writing, writing, writing. Nothing else. Just *writing, writing, writing*.

Then in one step you are *mentally writing* as you imagine and visualise all the writing you have done with your muscles and body.

***Then in one step only***, you take out your guitar and ***feel each note out of tempo***, you talk each note aloud by describing it and naming it as you play each note. Why? So that your mind and body coordinate together on your instrument and imprint the information in both your brain and motor system *simultaneously*.

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## What you will *not* be doing in these lessons

These lessons are primarily observing, memorising and writing lessons. These lessons:

1. Are not scale lessons. They are observing, memorising and writing notation above the stave lessons.
2. Are not key signature lessons. They are observing, memorising and writing notation above the stave lessons.
3. Are not key or harmony lessons. They are observing, memorising and writing notation above the stave lessons.
4. Are not modal scale lessons. They are observing, memorising and writing notation above the stave lessons.
5. Are not sightreading on the guitar lessons. They are observing, memorising and writing notation above the stave lessons.
6. Are nothing but observing, memorising and writing notation above the stave and tab lessons.
7. Do not require you to know modes. They just require you to observe, memorise and write notation above the stave and tabs.
8. Do not require you to know key signatures. They just require you to observe, memorise and write notation above the stave and tabs.
9. Do not require you to know harmony. They just require you to observe, memorise and write notation above the stave and tabs.
10. Do not require you to know or do anything but observe, memorise and write notation above the stave and tabs.

With that, stay focused and enjoy.

## About This Volume Note

This is the Three String Version of Reading Guitar Music WorkBook G Edition Above The Stave.

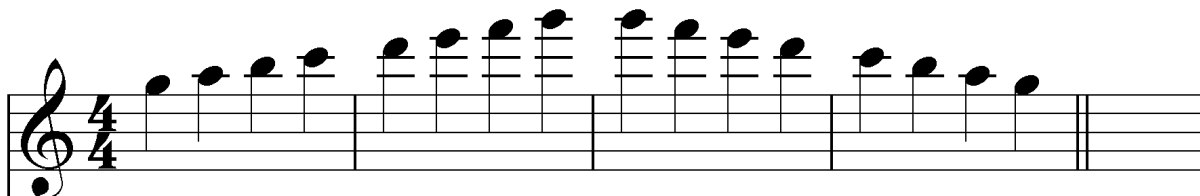
Pay close attention to the fingering in the Model Lesson. Here's a guide to the note names on E, B and G strings across frets 12 – 16 to help you tab and finger each scale across these strings.

String	Note Names				
E	E	F	Gb	G	G#/Ab
B	B	C	Db	D	Eb
G	G	G#/Ab	A	Bb	B
Fret	12	13	14	15	16

## Model Lesson One: *Learn the 12 Steps You Will Use In Each Lesson*

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note

T																	
A	12	14	12	13	15	12	13	15	15	13	12	15	13	12	14	12	
B																	
	1	3	1	2	4	1	2	4	4	2	1	4	2	1	3	1	

**STEP 6:** Name The Modal Scale \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

5



**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory

T																	
A																	
B																	

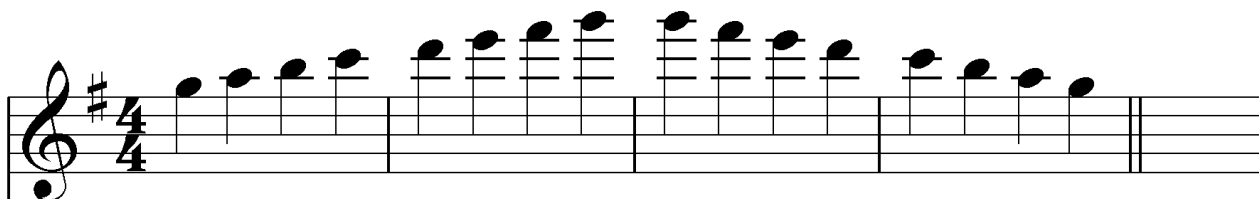
**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*

## Lesson Two: G Major Scale - Key of G

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - .....

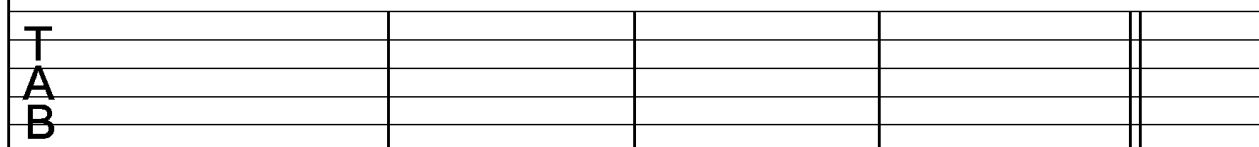
**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



### STEP 6: Name The Modal Scale

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

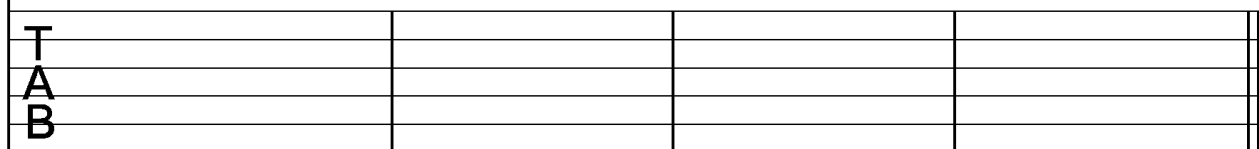
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**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



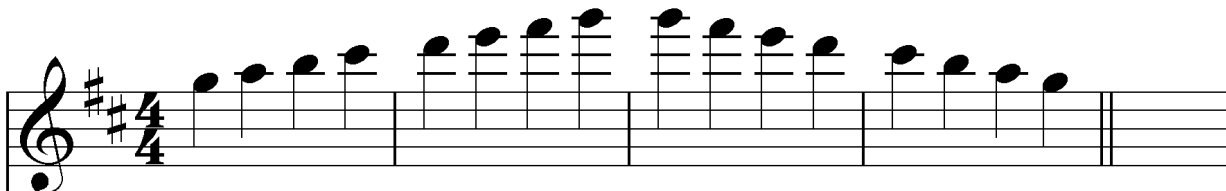
**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break* before starting the next exercise.

## Lesson Three: G Lydian Scale: Key of D

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

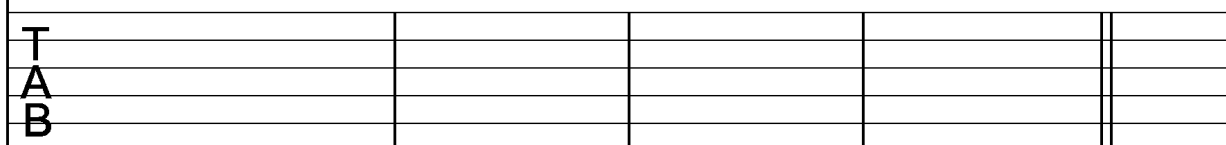
**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



**STEP 6:** Name The Modal Scale \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

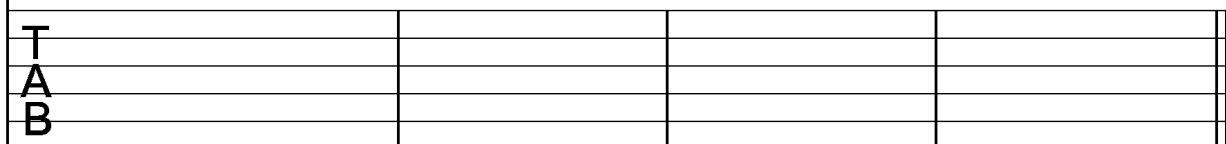
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**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

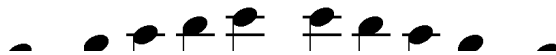
**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*



## Lesson Four: G# Locrian Scale - Key of A

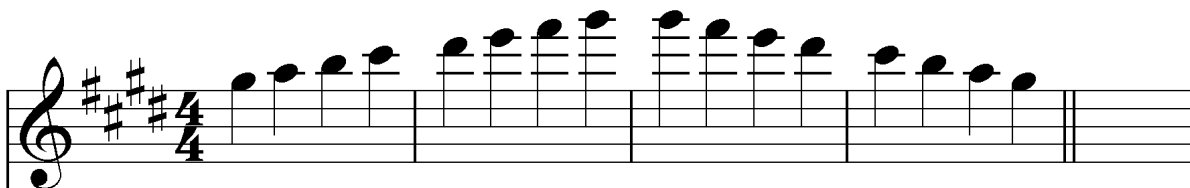
**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

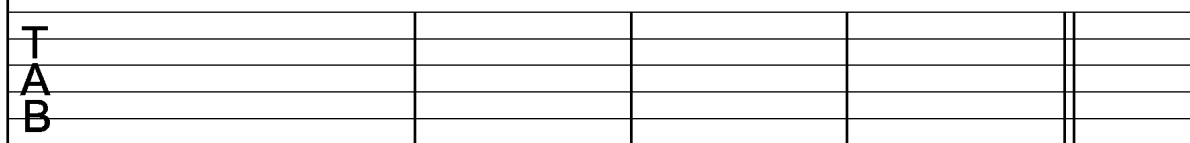
**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

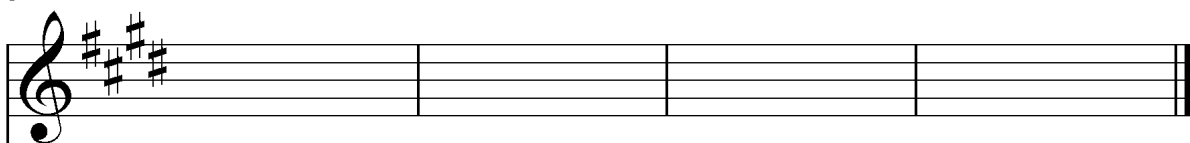
**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



**STEP 6:** Name The Modal Scale \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

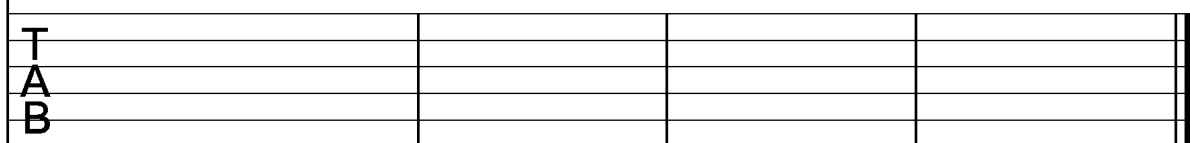
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**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



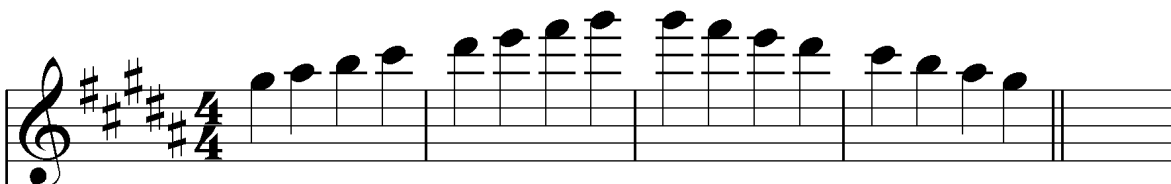
**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*

## Lesson Six: G# Aeolian Scale - Key of B

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

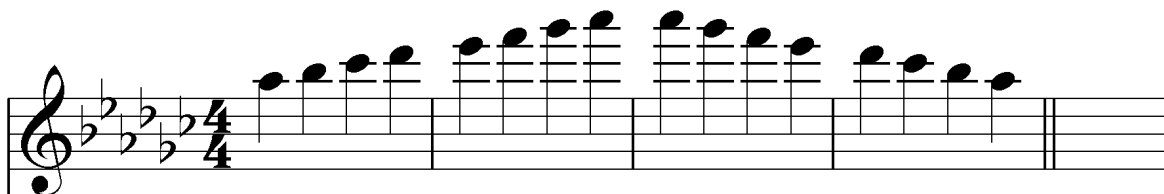
**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



## Lesson Seven: Ab Dorian Scale - Key of Gb

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

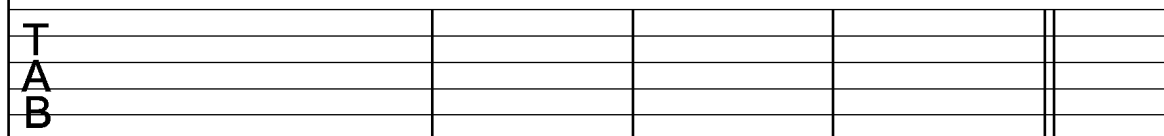
**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

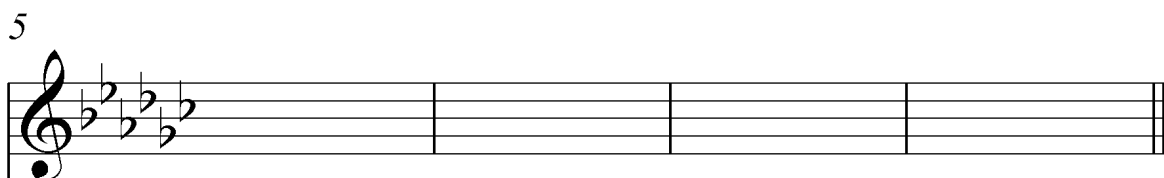
**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



**STEP 6:** Name The Modal Scale \_\_\_\_\_

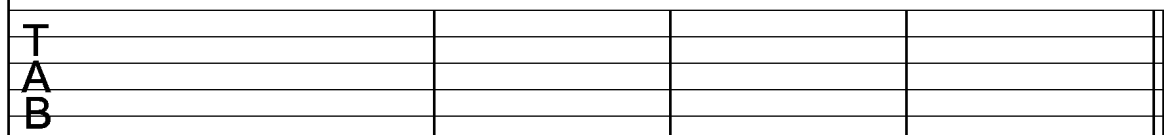
**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory



**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



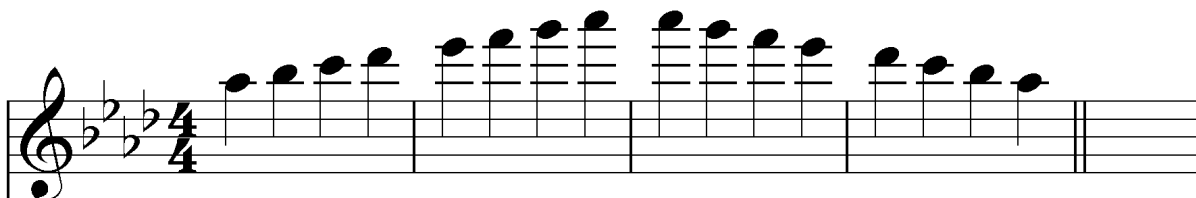
**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*

## Lesson Eight: Ab Mixolydian Scale - Key of Db

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

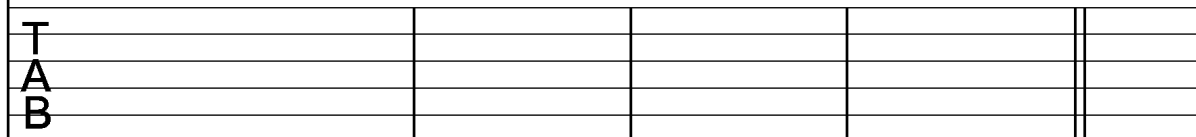
### STEP 2: Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

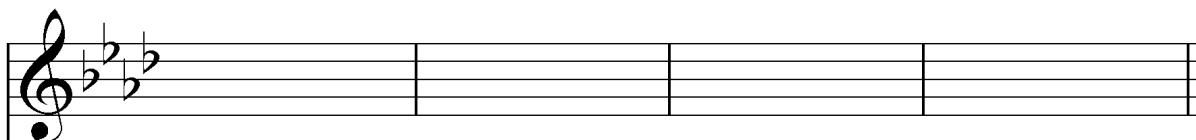
**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



### STEP 6: Name The Modal Scale

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

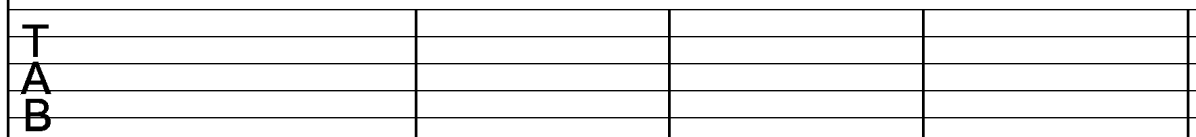
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**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

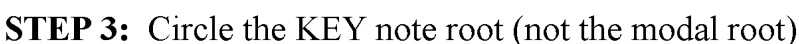
**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break* before starting the next exercise.

### STEP 2: Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note

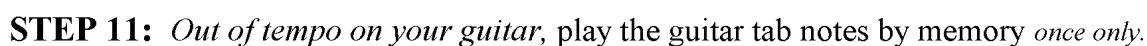


**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

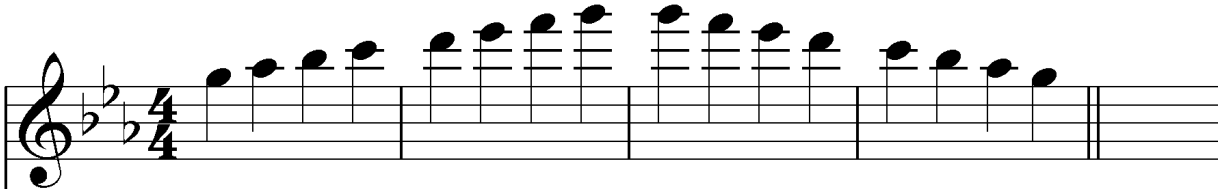
**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



**STEP 12:** Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.

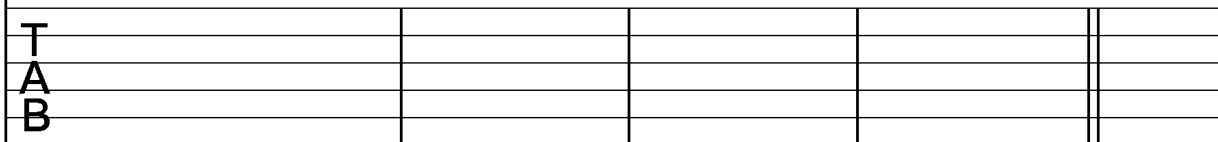
### STEP 2: Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



### STEP 6: Name The Modal Scale

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

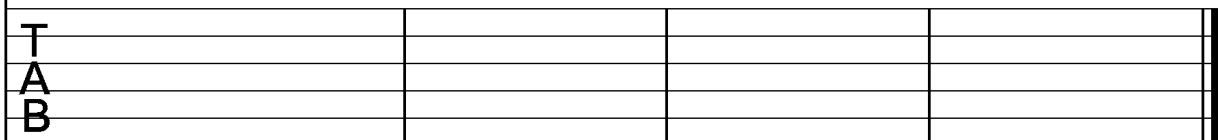
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**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



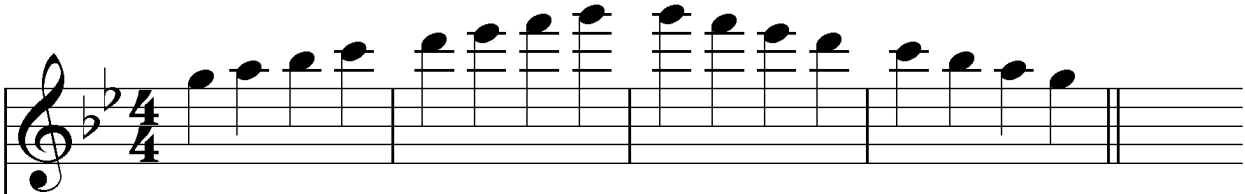
**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*

## Lesson Eleven: G Aeolian Scale - Key of Bb

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note

T				
A				
B				

**STEP 6:** Name The Modal Scale \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

5



**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory

T				
A				
B				

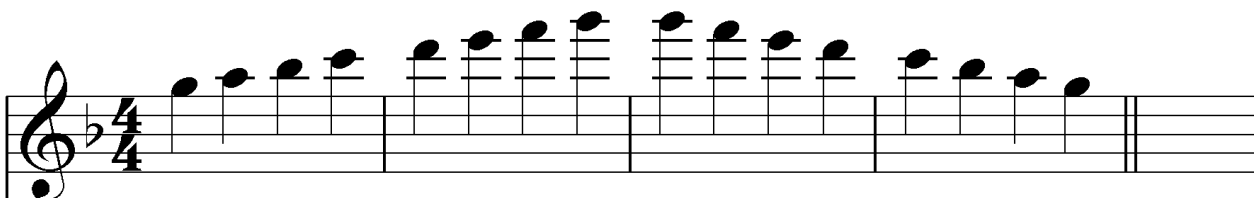
**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*

## Lesson Twelve: G Dorian Scale: Key of F

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - \_\_\_\_\_

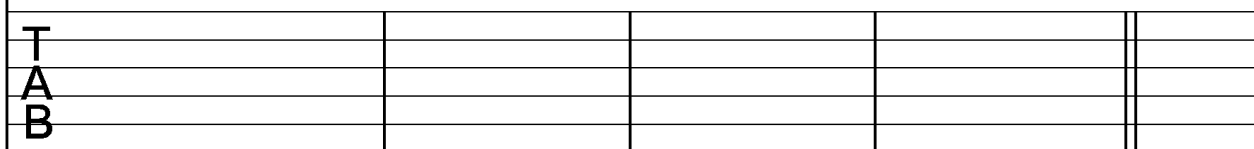
**STEP 2:** Name the notes in the staff



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

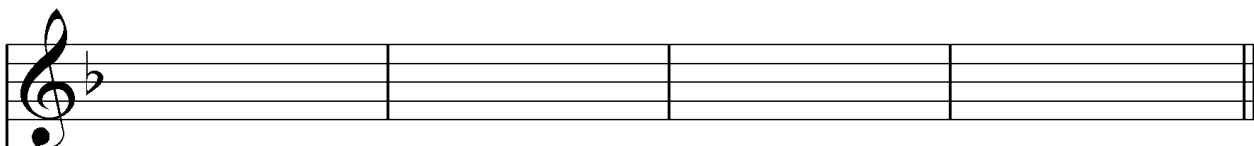
**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



**STEP 6:** Name The Modal Scale \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

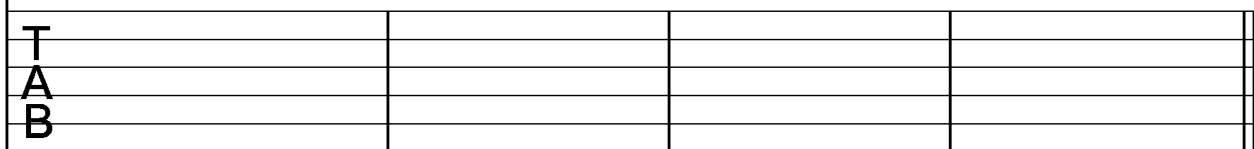
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**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the stave notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

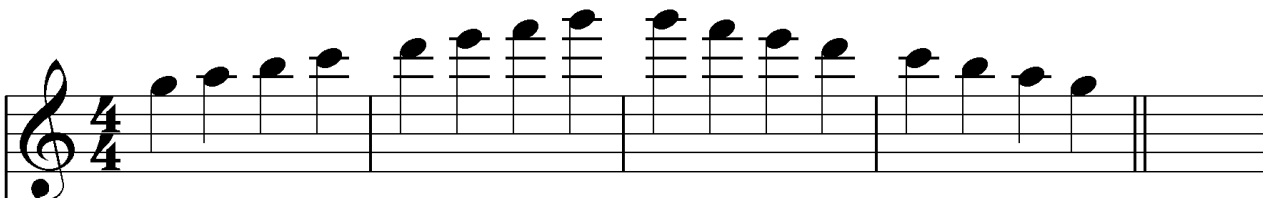
**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break before starting the next exercise.*



## Lesson Thirteen: G Mixolydian Scale - Key of C

**STEP 1:** Name the modal scale - .....

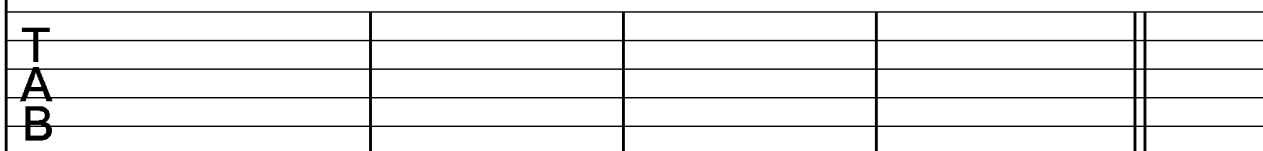
### STEP 2: Name the notes in the stave



**STEP 3:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 4:** Write the tab position of each stave note

**STEP 5:** Write the fingering under each tab note



### STEP 6: Name The Modal Scale

**STEP 7:** Write the notation of stave 1 by memory

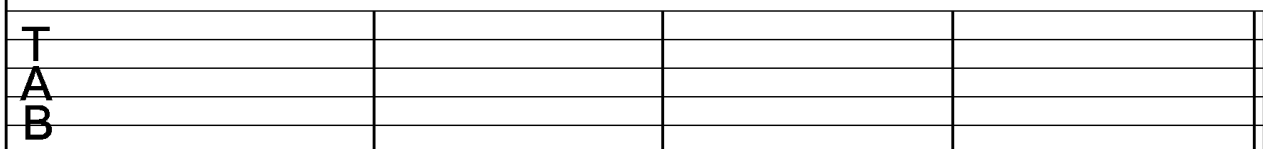
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**STEP 8:** Circle the KEY note root (not the modal root)

**STEP 9:** Write the staff notes of step 6 in the tab by memory

**STEP 10:** Write the fingering under each tab note by memory



**STEP 11:** *Out of tempo on your guitar, play the guitar tab notes by memory once only.*

**STEP 12:** *Take a one minute break* before starting the next exercise.

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## APPENDIX

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## Should New Guitar Players Read Music Or Not?

### When does a guitar player need to read music?

Music notation is most used in classical guitar and music genres that are *not defined by guitar*, notably jazz, some pop and classical music styles. In these styles, music has been transmitted through the centuries by notation. And a tradition of learning music by reading has evolved.

Many virtuoso guitar players read music. Think Steve Vai, Joe Satriani, Frank Zappa, Ingwe Malmsteen. Many virtuoso's don't too. Think Jimi Hendrix, Eddie Van Halen.

Guitar Players who want to arrange music for instruments other than guitar need to read and write music to communicate with those musicians. They don't do guitar tab.

Guitar Players who want to play music outside their immediate genres need to read music.

The best guitar transcriptions are those done by transcribers who can read music. (Conversely, a great way to learn to write music is by transcribing music.)

### When does a guitar player not need to read music?

When you are playing guitar defined music, like rock, pop, blues, metal, shred and many others often you don't need to read music. You need to read and write tab. As an instrument that came to prominence in the age of radio, guitar is a social instrument that is mostly socially taught---friend to friend, family member to family member.

With the advent of television, video and internet, guitar learning by ear—listening to your desired song over and over---or by eye---watching a good player amongst your friends, family, on you tube or on your dvd collection---has intensified. Between guitar players the notation of choice is guitar tab, backed up by video and audio to ensure they learn the desired rhythm.

### Should you read music?

This is another version of this basic question: **should you read?**

**You could answer no.** And it's true that you can get by without reading. As long as you don't mind being illiterate, earning really low pay all your life, being shut out of any opportunity program, not being able to afford to live and being worn down way by the daily grind way before your time.

**You could answer yes.** And suddenly whole worlds of imagination and creativity open up to you. You have the key that unlocks doors to opportunity, comfortable lifestyle, social security, prosperity and longevity.

Similarly with reading music. You can get by one horizon without reading music. Or you can learn to read and go beyond horizon after horizon. Just because you can read the signs on the doors.

**Reading music is not just for the continuously gigging player.** I didn't read music for the first 15 years of my guitar life. I have read music for the last 20 years. And I keep playing and playing and playing. People who started playing the same time as I who do not read, not only don't play anymore. But worse! They struggle to remember ever youthfully playing music at all!

# TAURA ERUERA QUICK AND DIRTY HARMONY LESSON

**OBJECTIVE:** Learn how to work out and spell diatonic chords in each key or scale.

**Step One** There are 8 notes in a major scale.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**Step Two** To make chord you STACK alternate notes on each note of the scale.  
Each note each chord is built on is called the ROOT or TONIC of the chord.  
The root is at the bottom of the chord stack.  
Here are the chords made up of stacked numbers.

5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1

**Step Three** Each chord now has a ROMAN NUMERAL NAME

5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I

**Step Four** Each chord has a quality

I ma II mi III mi IV ma V ma VI mi VII dim I ma

**Step Five** Summary of Chords IN ALL KEYS  
I, IV, V Chords are all major chords  
II,III,VI Chords are all minor chords  
VIII chord is a diminished chord.

**Step Six** SUMMARY TABLE OF CHORDS

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I
C ma	D mi	E mi	F ma	G ma	A mi	B dim	C ma
G ma	A mi	B mi	C ma	D ma	E mi	F# dim	G ma
D ma	E mi	F# mi	G ma	A ma	B mi	C# dim	D ma
A ma	B mi	C# mi	D ma	E ma	F# mi	G# dim	A ma
E ma	F# mi	G# mi	A ma	B ma	C# mi	D# dim	E ma
B ma	C# mi	D# mi	E ma	F# ma	G# mi	A# dim	B ma
Gb ma	Ab mi	Bb mi	Cb ma	Db ma	Eb mi	F dim	Gb ma
Db ma	Eb mi	F mi	Gb ma	Ab ma	Bb mi	C dim	Db ma
Ab ma	Bb mi	C mi	Db ma	Eb ma	F mi	G dim	Ab ma
Eb ma	F mi	G mi	Ab ma	Bb ma	C mi	D dim	Eb ma
Bb ma	C mi	D mi	Eb ma	F ma	G mi	A dim	Bb ma
F ma	G mi	A mi	Bb ma	C ma	D mi	E dim	F ma
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I

**Step Six** Basic progressions expressed as roman numerals

V - I I - IV - V II - V - I I - VI - II - V III - VI - II - V

**Step Seven** (Over time and not all in one go)

Learn to spell all the diatonic chords in the summary table in step 6 one line at a time  
Learn to spell all the progressions in all keys in step 6

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